

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05525 312005Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SSM-03 ACDA-07 AID-05 IO-13
SY-05 MCT-01 EUR-12 COM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-07 SCA-01 CU-02 OC-06
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R 311509Z MAR 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3457
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
ZEM/AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA 666
USMISSION SINAI

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY
SUBJ: PRESS ATTACKS ON LIBYA GAIN MEMENTUM

REF CAIRO 5440,

1. CAIRO PRESS ATTACKS ON QADHAFI GAIN MOMENTUM MARCH 31
WITH REVELATIONS THAT TWO SENIOR LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE OPER-
ATIVES CAUGHT INFILTRATING INTO EGYPT PREVIOUS DAY IN AMBUSH
SPRUNG BY STATE SECURITY (GDSSE). DAILES CLAIM ARREST OF
'ATIYYA DA'ABAS, REPORTEDLY CHIEF OF SECURITY APPARATUS IN
LIBYAN INTELLIGENC HQS IN TOBRUK AND MATERMIND OF SABOTAGE
OPEATIONS INTO EGYPT, AND OF 'ABD-AL-HADI 'ALLAM YAHUB, ALLEGEDLY
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 05525 312005Z

CHIEF OF LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICE IN MUSA'AD REGION.
AHAM CHORTLES THAT TWO LIBYAN OFFICERS ATTEMPTING TO ENTER
EGYPT TO PLANT EXPLOSIVES THEMSELVES BECAUSE THEY HAD HEARD
THAT ALL LIBYAN SABOTAGE NETS HAD BEEN ROUNDED UP BY GDSSE.

2. DAILIES ALSO ANNOUNCE THAT PUBLIC PROSECUTOR IBRAHIM QALYUBI
MARCH 30 ARRAIGNED TEN DEFENDANTS IN LIBYAN-BACKED SABOTAGE/

ASSASSINATION CASES AND TURNED DEFENDANTS OVER TO HIGHER STATE SECURITY COURT IN ALEXANDRIA FOR TRIAL. WRITS ALSO ISSUED FOR FIVE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS STILL AT LARGE. QALYUBI ANNOUNCED AT NEW CONF THAT LIBYAN AUTHORITIES FORCIBLY TAKE EGYPTIAN IDENTIFICATION CARDS AWAY FROM EGYPTIANS WORKING IN LIBYA, REMOVE PHOTOGRAPHS AND SUBSTITUTE NEW PICTURES TO FACILITATE INFILTRATION OF SABOTEURS.

3. AHAM, IN SPLASHY NEARLY-FULL-PAGE STORY ON ARREST OF DA' ABAS AND YAHUB, REPRINTS PHOTOGRAPH RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN LIBYAN PAPER JIHAD, SHOWING QADHAFI WITH GROUP OF LIBYANS WHICH GDSSI CLAIMS TO BE CHIEFS OF SABOTAGE OPERATIONS AGAINST EGYPT: 'IDRIS SHUHAYBI, CHIEF OF LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICE IN TOBRUK; 'ABD-AL-AZIZ MAKHYUN, CHIEF SHUHAYBI AIDE IN TOBRUK; ABU BAKR SALIM; RAHUMA JADALLAH; AND "ABBUD ABU AL-HASHAR. AHAM CLAIMS THAT PICTURE PROVES CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN QADHAFI AND ANTI-EGYPTIAN SABOTAGE OPERATIONS.

4. WEEKLY AKHBAR SA'A GETS INTO ACT MARCH 30 WITH CLAIM THAT "ARAB CIRCLES" HAVE LEARNED THAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST CARLOS IN LIBYA UNDER PROTECTION OF QADHAFI. "INFORMATION HAS LEAKED OUT" THAT CARLOS AND QADHAFI PLANNING TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN "SEVERAL PLACES AT SET TIME". CARLOS TRAINING GROUPS OF TERRORISTS IN SPECIAL CAMPS NEAR TRIPOLI. IN ADDITION TO CARLOS, AKHBAR SA'A POINTS TO ELEMENTS FROM JAPANESE RED ARMY ORGANIZATION LIVING IN HOTEL ON MEDITERRANEAN COAST AND TRAINING "MERCENARIES" FOR SABOTAGE AND INFILTRATION OPERATIONS.

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 05525 312005Z

5. CULTURAL FIELD HAS ALSO BEEN INVADDED BY EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN SNIPING. AKHBAR MARCH 30 CARRIES FIVE LETTERS FROM IRATE READERS CRITICIZING POPULAR ALGERIAN SINGER (NOW EGYPTIAN CITIZEN) WARDA, WHO GAVE SEVERAL CONCERTS IN LIBYA RECENTLY, IN WHICH SHE ALLEGEDLY SANG SONG IN PRAISE OF "MADMAN QADHAFI". LETTER CALL ON MINICULTURE AL-SAWI TO ORDER EGYPTIAN RADIO AND TV STATIONS TO REFUSE TO DEAL IN FUTURE WITH SINGER. WARDA FELT CONSTRAINED TO PUBLISH LETTER IN AKHBAR CLAIMING THAT SHE ONLY SANG IN LIBYA FOR LIBYAN PEOPLE AND SONG SHE SANG IN LIBYAN DIALECT IN NO WAY MENTIONED QADHAFI.

6. COMMENT: PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST QADHAFI STILL BEING TREATED AS COMPILATION OF BILL OF INDICTMENT. DAILY REVELATIONS OF LIBYAN-INSPIRED PLOTS AND REGULAR ARRESTS OF SABOTEURS, HOWEVER, CLEARLY BEGINNING TO ERODE EGYPTIAN PATIENCE. IT WOULD REQUIRE LITTLE EFFORT TO LAUNCH STRIDENT ANTI LIBYAN CAMPAIGN WHICH MIGHT BRING CURRENT POPULAR ANNOYANCE WITH "MADMAN" QADHAFI'S ANTICS TO BOILING POINT. MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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